



# NEWS

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## **SENATOR GLENN LAUDED FOR WORK ON AQUATIC INVASIVES**

The interagency Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force has recognized Senator John Glenn for his outstanding efforts to prevent and control invasions of alien species. The award was presented by the co-chairs of the task force, Dr. D. James Baker, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at a July 21 reception.

"Senator Glenn has long recognized that invasive alien species such as the zebra mussel and sea lamprey can have a serious impact on our country," said Clark. "The Senator was a moving force behind passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 and has worked tirelessly to call public attention to the problem of invasive species."

"Senator Glenn recognized an emerging environmental issue long before many others," said Baker, who praised the Senator's vision on this significant concern. "When it would have been expedient to focus on a single species, such as the invasion of the zebra mussel, he recognized the importance of addressing the overall issue and taking steps to prevent future invasions."

### **Aquatic Nuisance Species-an Economic and Ecological Threat**

"Introductions of nonindigenous aquatic species have been extremely costly to our Nation, both economically and ecologically," Dr. Baker added. "For example, cities, power plants, and industrial facilities in the Great Lakes region spend more than \$30 million each year to prevent zebra mussels from clogging water intake pipes." Zebra mussels attach themselves to any hard surface. The U.S. and Canadian governments spend \$15 million annually to control another exotic threat, the sea lamprey, which has had a serious impact on sport and commercial fishing, which contribute \$5 billion to the regional economy.

Clark emphasized the seriousness of environmental impacts of aquatic nuisance species. "Aquatic nuisance species are notorious for their ability to devour or crowd out native wildlife," Clark noted. "Alien species have upset the ecological balance in many of our waters and have played a role in the depletion of many fish and other aquatic species in the United States."

### **A Step Toward Prevention and Control**

Senator Glenn was the author of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, which established the intergovernmental Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and encouraged coordination and cooperation among several Federal agencies. The Act galvanized Federal efforts to detect, prevent, and control invasive aquatic species and earmarked millions in Federal funds for research needed to support these activities.

Many aquatic nuisance species have been introduced by ballast water and the Act addresses ballast water as a pathway for new introductions. "Thanks to Senator Glenn's efforts, all ships entering the St. Lawrence Seaway must now exchange their ballast water on the high seas," Clark said. "This greatly reduces the likelihood of another pest like the zebra mussel invading Toledo, Chicago, or Duluth." The task force is also sponsoring research on other methods of ballast water management.

Members of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. State Department.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

NOAA is a Federal agency dedicated to predicting and protecting our environment. Its mission is broad in scope: to be the eyes and ears of science in our atmosphere, in the sky, and under the oceans.

For photographs of Senator Glenn, contact his Washington office at 202-224-3353 or one of his district offices: Cincinnati, 513-684-3265; Cleveland, 216-522-7095; Columbus, 614-469-6697; or Toledo, 419-259-7592.

For event photographs, contact Eric Eckl at 202-208-5636.